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as we are to lose her from our immediate group, for her own sake, we are glad that her new field of work promises to be of a very different kind, and free from many of the difficulties peculiar to municipal hospitals. Because Miss Hilliard's many friends were most anxious for an opportunity to say "Good-bye" and express their best wishes for success in her new field of work, the New York City League held a farewell reception in her honor at the Central Club on Wednesday, February 25. It was interesting to note that the three important boards with which Miss Hilliard had worked were represented, not only by many members, but by their presidents as well: Doctor John W. Brannan, president of the Board of Trustees; Doctor George B. Stewart, president of the Medical Board, and Mrs. Wm. Church Osborne, president of the Board of Managers who, we have always understood, acts as a fairy godmother to the Bellevue Training School. Dr. Stewart's tribute to Miss Hilliard's work was expressed in the following words: "To have successfully carried the responsibility of the nursing at Bellevue Hospital during the war period, is an achievement of which any woman may well be proud." Mrs. Osborne stated that the Board of Managers accepted Miss Hilliard's resignation with the greatest regret because of their great admiration for her disinterestedness, capacity, and the serenity with which she met and rose above unusual difficulties. They felt that her contribution to the School had been a definite plan for constructive reorganization much of which had been carried out despite innumerable difficulties due to the war, the calling of the Bellevue unit into active service, and later, the terrible epidemic of 1918 which severely strained all the facilities of the hospital, and made enormous demands on the nursing service which were all the harder to meet because of the illness of many and the death of several pupil nurses. During this awful time, Miss Hilliard lost several members of her immediate family and yet through it all she showed unflinching courage and devotion to duty. In spite of these unusual circumstances, she put through various administrative reforms which required great decision and much careful planning. Miss Nutting, Miss Goodrich, and the entire faculty of the Nursing and Health Department of Teachers College, Miss Palmer of the *American Journal of Nursing*, representatives of the Red Cross, and a noticeably large number of faculty members from all of the New York Schools, were among the guests. We count Bellevue's loss to be a very great gain for the Samaritan Hospital and congratulate the Board of Managers on having secured Miss Hilliard to take charge of the hospital. Our best wishes go with Miss Hilliard and coupled with them is a strong undercurrent of hope that we are only loaning her to Troy for a time, and ere long, she will be in our midst again.

New York

CAROLYN E. GRAY.

RANK FOR NURSES

I.

Dear Editor: This is 1920, a year of hope, a year of reconstruction—readjustment, and the year in which many wrongs are to be made right. It is only in peaceful moments that we can concentrate our minds. Those moments are here and we—thousands of us—must think, must act, and give to the nurse that which is rightfully hers—RANK. I say, "We must give." Who else will give it, unless the thousands who realize that it belongs to her stand as one, and work for the same object? During my army service I was on leave of absence and traveled through the west. I was clad in full regulation uniform. Having some time between trains in a certain town, I stepped into an ice cream parlor.

As soon as I entered, my attention was drawn to two soldiers. One instantly stood at salute, but the other remained seated, glanced in my direction, and then went on with his ice cream. I acknowledged the salute of the one soldier (needless to state, he was a Canadian), and as gracefully as possible left the parlor. I wanted to get outside. I was sick at heart. The United States lad was not to blame. I was just one of the nurses from some near or far camp. I held no rank, was neither an officer nor an enlisted man, and he was under no obligation. I shall never forget the look of pride on the Canadian's face; likewise, I shall never forget the look of astonishment on the American's face as he watched his companion, and wondered for what officer he was standing at attention. I love my country and believe in her, and she has never failed in the right. This is the year that the United States is going to give her nurses, those who are living, and those who have heard the "Well done," that justice—Rank!

Ohio

R. F. D.

II.

Dear Editor: As a Red Cross reserve, while we were at the war and after, my experience has convinced me that Rank for Nurses in the army is the only solution to the difficulties that arise when one is in charge; for the chief nurse and for any nurse who assumes any responsibilities. The nurse then would not be subjected to insults from ignorant, uneducated, non-commissioned officers. These non-coms when they get their commissions, have a little "Kaiser rule the world" disposition, and if the nurses had rank considerable trouble would be eliminated. My next reason is, "America first." We look upon America as the leader of the world. If she is, why then does not Uncle Sam give rank for nurses without further parleying? Canada, Australia and England all gave rank to their nurses, and a salary to correspond. American nurses willingly went overseas and to camps at home. As a rule, they are not looking for recognition, and it seems to me the least Uncle Sam can do is to give them rank without their having to fight for it. If American is first, let her wake up to the needs of those worthy of recognition.

Washington

J. B.

III.

Dear Editor: In the March number of the JOURNAL I find in Letters to the Editor two letters from army nurses based on entirely different viewpoints. The first letter signed "F. W. B.," makes me very much ashamed, not of her but for her. The second letter gives a much better idea of actual conditions. "R. G. C." says in her letter, "there are two sides to every story," "there are black sheep in every flock." Might it not be reasonable to expect black sheep in the nursing flock, as well as among the officers? I was in the army two years and never during my enlistment was I "insulted or unhonored" by an officer or an enlisted man. I was overseas, and I can say when I came back I found a real welcome, and we were always well taken care of. Our comfort abroad was made very pleasant by the American Red Cross. Many things the army could not have were furnished by the Red Cross. It did not give us luxuries, but it helped us through some pretty trying times. Do you think Rank for Nurses would relieve such conditions as F. W. B. describes? Perhaps these officers were acquainted with some black sheep in our profession. Her prejudice may be through some purely personal dislike. Need that cloud her entire vision? I am rather indifferent about Rank for Nurses. In America men are courteous to women instinctively, regardless of what position or rank they hold in any situation that

comes within their notice, providing the lady demands respect. One can never demand that respect by giving nurses rank. Part of the nurses do not need it. The ones that do will abuse it. I have not been convinced that it will cure the evil it is intended for. American men are by far more civil to American women than are British men to their women. Do we need it really?

Illinois

A. R. W.

IV.

Dear Editor: Replying to "R. G. C." in the March number of the JOURNAL, I wish to let it be known that I am an ex-Chief Nurse, Army Nurse Corps, who certainly did receive a square deal, and would like to have it known also that it was by the members of the regular army. I do not wish to be disagreeable about the matter, but it is a terrible disappointment to me to read all the petty complaints the nurses are making, after the most wonderful experience and opportunities they have just had. It is almost incredible to realize a body of women trained as these women have been to meet just such an emergency, with every consideration made for their safety and comfort, could have done it with so little appreciation, seemingly so. I was a Chief Nurse for about sixteen months, serving in this country and in France, and I do not know of one instance where the Army Nurse Corps was not treated with every consideration, especially by members of the regular army. Many of the complaints are from nurses who have had little or no experience, who were not equal to meet conditions as they presented themselves, and the fault was, of course, with the army. These nurses are poor soldiers, to my way of thinking. It occurs to me it is as much a part of our duty to be loyal to those who shouldered the responsibility, as it was to care for the soldiers, and it is not being loyal to be so hypercritical. It might be well for the nurses who are so dissatisfied to stop and give the matter a little consideration to this end: that not one complaint has come from the nurses who were unable to go overseas, and who would have changed places with these nurses willingly. Also not one complaint has come from the Army Nurse Corps personnel as to the conduct of the nurses in many instances, and as to their inefficiency, in not coming up to the mark. There is no thought given these women who have worked for years in building up the Army Nurse Corps, endeavoring to put it on a basis which made it possible for the nurses to enjoy the privileges afforded them, during the great war. Another thing brought to my attention, some time ago, was a complaint of a nurse who had been transferred from one post to another, and had not received her pay for six months or such a matter, and her criticism was of the paymaster who would not pay her, although she had nothing to show that she had not been paid. That this nurse was inconvenienced, I will acknowledge, and the fault was not hers, but that of the commanding officer or Chief Nurse of the post from which she had been transferred, for allowing her to travel without proper credentials. A number of criticisms could be straightened out very easily if the Chief Nurses had known their Manual a little better. No paymaster in the whole army would refuse a nurse her pay provided she had her letter of appointment or assignment with her. In closing I wish it to be understood that, whether I belong to "better class of nurses" or not, I will gladly offer my services to my country, through the Army Nurse Corps, in case of any emergency. We want rank, and should have it, but we will never get it unless we show we are big enough to deserve it.

New Jersey

M. M. W.